



**STATE OF MONTANA  
DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS  
POLICY DIRECTIVE**

Policy No. DOC 4.5.27	Subject: <b>OFFENDER MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES</b>
Chapter 4: FACILITY/PROGRAM SERVICES	Page 1 of 2 and Attachment
Section 5: Health Care for Secure Facilities	Effective Date: Sept. 1, 1998
Signature: /s/ Bill Slaughter, Director	Revision Dates: 06/14/01; 03/26/02; 04/18/06

**I. POLICY**

The Department of Corrections facilities will provide mental health services at intake and as clinically indicated for offenders who suffer from mental disorders.

**II. APPLICABILITY**

The secure facilities that include Riverside and Pine Hills Youth Correctional Facilities, Montana State Prison, Montana Women's Prison, Treasure State Correctional Training Center, and the private and regional facilities contracted to the Department of Corrections.

**III. REFERENCES**

- A. 53-1-203; 53-21-102(7)1997; *Montana Code Annotated*
- B. *National Commission on Correctional Health Care Standards for Health Services in Prisons, 2003*
- C. *ACA Standards for Juvenile Correctional Facilities, 2003*
- D. *Washington v. Harper: 494 U.S.210 (1990)*

**IV. DEFINITIONS**

Mental Disorder – Refers to the meaning provided in 53-21-102(7), MCA.

Mental Health Services – The use of a variety of psychosocial and pharmacological therapies, either individual or group, including biological, psychological, and social to alleviate symptoms, attain appropriate functioning, and prevent relapse.

**V. DEPARTMENT DIRECTIVES**

**A. Requirements**

1. Facility mental health practitioners will provide:
  - a. services that screen and identify offenders who have a current or past history of mental disorder;
  - b. voluntary treatment unless treatment providers determine the offender is gravely disabled or a significant danger to self or others;
  - c. procedures to ensure treatment providers refer all offenders for further psychological or psychiatric evaluation and treatment when indicated; and
  - d. crisis intervention for suicide attempts or acute mental distress.
2. Each facility will develop procedures that address:

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- a. scope of available services;
- b. process by which an offender may access or is referred for services;
- c. training for use of seclusion, restraints, or forced psychotropic medication, if permitted by the facility;
- d. education and training of custody and clinical staff in suicide prevention and recognition of mental illness;
- e. crisis intervention and emergency referrals (see Attachment);
- f. medication monitoring and periodic re-evaluation; and
- g. offender right to refuse treatment and the method of documentation;

## **VI. CLOSING**

Questions concerning this policy should be directed to the Department medical director.

## **VII. ATTACHMENT**

Request for Mental Health Services (Attachment)

## Request for Mental Health Services

OFFENDER NAME: _____	DOC ID Number: _____	Housing Unit: _____
A. Reason for Request: (specific complaints, concerns, symptoms, problems, etc.) _____ _____ _____ _____ _____ _____		
B. Services Requested: _____ _____ _____ _____		
D. Priority (check one) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <b>Emergency- call Command Post for emergency services (response within 2 hours)</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> <b>Urgent- Call the mental health department for urgent services (response within 3 days)</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> <b>Routine- Forward this request through appropriate channels (response within 8 working days)</b>
E. Requested by: _____ Title: _____ Date: _____ <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between;"> <div style="width: 30%;">(print name)</div> <div style="width: 30%;"></div> <div style="width: 30%;"></div> </div> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between;"> <div style="width: 30%;">(signature)</div> <div style="width: 30%;"></div> <div style="width: 30%;"></div> </div>		
<b>BELOW THIS POINT FOR MENTAL HEALTH STAFF USE ONLY:</b>		<b>DATE RECEIVED:</b>
F. Action Taken: _____ _____ _____ _____ _____		
G. Recommended Service: _____ _____ _____ _____ _____		
H. Action Taken By: _____ <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between; margin-top: 5px;"> <div style="width: 30%;">(print name)</div> <div style="width: 30%;">(signature)</div> <div style="width: 30%;">(date)</div> </div>		